

Today's News - Monday, March 28, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us a new place to stay in Copenhagen "where you can feel at home without having to think about domestic chores" (with a restored Fiat as lobby art).
- Webber digs deep into the growing "turf war" and "fiery discourse" between architects, landscape architects, and landscape urbanism/ists (some squirm, others cheer).
- Holl talks about the controversy his plans for the Glasgow School of Art have provoked: "When you do anything slightly radical you will be criticized. That comes with the territory."
- Kamin on Northwestern's plans to demolish Goldberg's Prentice Hospital: "If the university wins city permission...it would reveal to the world anew that Chicago destroys architectural landmarks as fast as the city builds them" (and don't plan on preservationists fading quietly away).
- Ouroussoff bemoans the loss of their original eccentricities in expansions of the Barnes, Getty Villa, and Gardner museums, being "remade into slick, corporate artistic institutions of a sort that their founders no doubt would have deplored."
- Moore finds Seville's "flashy new" Metropol Parasol "a wonderful thing, daring, inventive, determined...But it has a problem" (even if it is "almost, one of the smarter of the recent tide of iconic buildings").
- Goldberger gives the High Line the National Geographic treatment: "It isn't often in any city, let alone New York, that an unusually sophisticated concept for a public place makes its way through the design process, the political process, and the construction process largely intact" (great images, video, too).
- Campbell cheers DS+R's Granoff Center: it is "both lofty and inventive...as ingenious as it is practical" and "a place for free spirits."
- Foster finishes a "gorgeous green building" in Morocco ("albeit no quaint mom-and-pop straw bale building").
- Leveté beats out some big guns to win V&A's £35 million courtyard extension.
- Staten Island Museum to get a new, \$25 million home by Gluckman Mayner on the Snug Harbor Cultural Center Campus.
- Taiwan's National Palace Museum to get a new branch "inspired by three different calligraphy strokes."
- Larry Richards and Avi Friedman debate the feasibility of towers made of timber: it's an opportunity for innovation, which is good, but it needs to be tested.
- Walters on "Design Thinking" and why "the two worlds of design and business still need to learn to meet half way."
- Registration deadline extended for Connections: The Gowanus Lowline international ideas competition for the Gowanus Canal area in Brooklyn, NY.
- We couldn't resist: Crown Hall celebrates Mies's 125th birthday tonight (and Kamin wonders if they'll be passing out cigars).

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Contested Ground: Is a turf war brewing with the rise of landscape architecture?...recent surge in prestigious commissions going to and being completed by landscape architects has fuelled a fiery discourse..."Traditional roles have flipped"...Landscape urbanists have all the pieces." By Gwen Webber -- Stephen Cassell/ARO; James Corner Field Operations; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Weiss/Manfredi; Stoss; Charles Waldheim; GroundLab; Robert Balder/Gensler; James Wines/SITE; Will Alsop; Andres Duany; Design Trust for Public Space; Susannah Drake/dlandstudio; Eric Bunge/nArchitects; Mathur/da Cunha [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Mackintosh's best friend ...or worst foe? The architect who designed the new Glasgow School of Art building talks for the first time about the controversy his plans have provoked..."I appreciate their criticism, but I don't think they understand the project...When you do anything slightly radical you will be criticised. That comes with the territory." -- Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Steven Holl; JM Architects - Sunday Herald (Scotland)

Northwestern University wants to tear down Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Hospital; preservationists have other ideas: ...it could be wrecking the boldly sculptural, brilliantly engineered high-rise at the very time the Art Institute of Chicago is celebrating it as part of a major exhibition of Goldberg's work...would reveal to the world anew that Chicago destroys architectural landmarks as fast as the city builds them. By Blair Kamin [images] - Chicago Tribune

Eccentricity Gives Way to Uniformity in Museums: Some of the most original and idiosyncratic art institutions in the country have embarked on major expansions, significantly transforming their identities...What were once eccentric creations have become polite and well behaved. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Machado and Silvetti; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Renzo Piano - New York Times

Metropol Parasol: Seville's flashy new showcase is held together by extra-strong glue -- but not quite enough to make its many parts connect...a wonderful thing, daring, inventive, determined...But it has a problem...two forms of wonderfulness do not connect, with each other or with their surroundings...a shame, as the Parasol is, almost, one of the smarter of the recent tide of iconic buildings. By Rowan Moore -- Jürgen Mayer H; Arup [images] - Guardian (UK)

High Line: Miracle Above Manhattan: ...float over busy streets in an innovative park...a wonderful idea was not only realized but turned out better than anyone had imagined. It isn't often in any city, let alone New York, that an unusually sophisticated concept for a public place makes its way through the design process, the political process, and the construction process largely intact. By Paul Goldberger -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Piet Oudolf [slide show, video] - National Geographic

Designs on the best of both worlds: Granoff Center for the Creative Arts at Brown University is both lofty and inventive: ...a stack of simple loft spaces...arranged in a way that's as ingenious as it is practical...Different activities should be visible to one another, should learn from one another. The architecture is a diagram of that kind of interaction...a place for free spirits. By Robert Campbell -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Boston Globe

Foster + Partners Finish Gorgeous Green Building In Morocco: ...first building the firm has completed in Africa...Albeit no quaint mom-and-pop straw bale building...has kept the building's carbon footprint to a minimum, while relying extensively on local materials, craftsmanship, and design. [images] - Green Prophet (Middle East)

Amanda Levete Architects (AL_A) scoops V&A Boiler House Yard extension job: ...beat shortlisted

competitors Michael Maltzan Architecture, Tony Fretton, Jamie Fobert, Jun Aoki & Associates, Heneghan Peng and Norway's Snøhetta working with Gareth Hoskins Architects to win the £35 million job. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Staten Island Museum Breaks Ground on New Home: ...\$25 million home in Building A, a landmark on the Snug Harbor Cultural Center Campus. -- Gluckman Mayner Architects [image]- New York Times

National Palace Museum unveils design of new branch: ...expected to be a new cultural and tourism attraction in the Chiayi area [southern Taiwan]...Inspired by three different calligraphy strokes...symbolize the three mainstream ancient civilizations of Asia - China, India and Persia...signifies the exchanges of the three cultures. -- Kris Yao/Artech; Teng Hao [image]- Focus Taiwan

Towers made of timber could herald a new environmentally friendly era of construction: An Opportunity for Innovation...A Question of Safety -- and Courage. Innovation is good, but it needs to be tested. By Larry Richards and Avi Friedman -- McFarlane Green Biggar Architecture + Design; Kazuhiro Ishii - The Mark (Canada)

"Design Thinking" Isn't a Miracle Cure, But Here's How It Helps: The two worlds of design and business still need to learn to meet half way. By Helen Walters - Fast Company

Deadline extended: Call for entries: Connections: The Gowanus Lowline inaugural international ideas competition for the Gowanus Canal area in Brooklyn, NY; registration deadline extended to May 1 - Gowanus by Design/Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation

Light up the cigars: Mies van der Rohe Society celebrates the 125th anniversary of the master's birth with a bash at his Crown Hall tonight... By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Book Review: "Immaterial World: Transparency in Architecture": Marc Kristal crystallizes increasingly complex notions of transparency with a light touch...invites additional research, reflection, and architecture. By Norman Weinstein -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Alejandro Aravena; Toyo Ito; Christian de Portzamparc - ArchNewsNow.com

A Tale of Two Pools: Q&A with Paulett Taggart: It was the sunniest of pools, it was the foggiest of pools, but the architectural approach is similar: there is nothing unnecessary. -- Paulett Taggart Architects; Mark Cavagnero Associates [images]- ArchNewsNow

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